

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 22312 221046Z

47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 /051 W

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R 220816Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3150

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 22312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PFOR

SUBJ: TURNOVER OF ICS

REF: A) STATE 156815 B) MACTHAI 180708Z JUL 75

C) MACTHAI 281135Z AUG 75 D) MACTHAI 281129Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON TURNOVER OF INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (ICS) WERE INITIATED SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT OF AUTHORIZATION (REF A). REF B PROVIDED PRELIMINARY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED REGARDING EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION, COSTS, AND TIMING FOR TRANSFER. DRAFT TURNOVER AGREEMENT IS NOW UNDER REVIEW BY ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES HERE AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON SOONEST. MODALITIES OF SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT REMAIN TO BE DETERMINED. END SUMMARY.

1. REF A AUTHORIZED DISCUSSIONS WITH RTG LOOKING TOWARD THE TURNOVER OF THE ICS ASSETS IN THAILAND. TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MACTHAI AND SUPREME COMMAND FOLLOWED. RTG WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OVER VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE SYSTEM ON A PHASED BASED BASIS WHICH WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR THAI PERSONNEL TO BE TRAINED TO OPERATE ICS. SUPREME COMMAND HAS VOICED NO OBJECTION TO U.S. USING SYSTEM FOR RESIDUAL COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS ON A COST-SHARING BASIS.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 22312 221046Z

COSTS WOULD BE BASED ON PERCENTAGE OF USAGE OF CHANNELS.

TRAINING, FOR WHICH MAP FUNDS IN AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY \$250,000 AVAILABLE, WILL REQUIRE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

2. DRAFT OF PROPOSED TURNOVER AGREEMENT IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY CONCERNED AGENCIES AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR COMMENT AS SOON AS IN-COUNTRY REVIEW IS COMPLETED. ACCORDING MACTHAI, WRITTEN TURNOVER AGREEMENT IS NECESSARY IN ORDER THAT ICS CAN BE TRANSFERRED AT NO COST, SINCE TO CHARGE ICS AGAINST WORLDWIDE MAP CEILING WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE.

3. THE ICS TURNOVER COULD HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL IMPACT AND MIGHT BE BILLED AS A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO RTG SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE FIELD OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS. THIS COULD BE ESPECIALLY TIMELY IN LIGHT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI'S RECENT COMPLAINTS THAT WE HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH IN THIS FIELD. THIS ARGUES FOR HAVING THE AMBASSADOR AND THE APPROPRIATE THAI MINISTER AS SIGNATORS OF THE TURNOVER AGREEMENT. AN AGREEMENT SIGNED AT THAT LEVEL MIGHT, HOWEVER, TAKE LONGER TO CONCLUDE. ON THE THAI SIDE, IT WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE CABINET APPROVAL BEFORE SIGNATURE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE TURNOVER AGREEMENT BE CONCLUDED RAPIDLY SO THAT TRAINING OF THAI OPERATORS AND TURNOVER OF ICS SITES CAN BEGIN. FOR THESE REASONS, THAI SUPREME COMMAND PREFERS THE MACTHAI-SUPREME COMMAND MODE.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE ON TIMING AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED ON U.S. SIDE IF AMBASSADOR IS A SIGNATOR TO TURNOVER AGREEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT BE REQUIRED?
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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